



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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DRAFT

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CONTACT: Wes Johnson
Director's Office
713-837-0002

Gary Norman
Director's Office
713-837-7425

City Public Works Department Helps Sponsor "Walk This Way" Event ***Part of National Walk to School Day***

City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department Director Tom Rolen announced today that his department will participate as a member of the Greater Houston Safe Kids Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee to aid in sponsoring the "Walk This Way" Pedestrian Education Fair. The Fair will be held on October 2, 2001 at Cage Elementary, located at 4528 Leeland, Houston, Texas 77023 from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM.

The Fair will include a Pedestrian Village where Cage Elementary students will tour booths and receive information concerning safe pedestrian and bicycling practices. The Fair's activities will highlight its "Left, Right, Left" slogan to encourage children to look both ways before crossing a busy street. To warn students of the potential dangers related to streets and vehicle traffic, the Fair will also include a traffic accident skit. A representative of the City of Houston Mayor's Office will award Cage Elementary a proclamation officially designating October 2, 2001 as "Walk This Way" Day in Houston, Texas.

Other members of the Greater Houston Safe Kids Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee include HISD, AAA, Metro, Federal Express, and Burlington Northern / Santa Fe Railroad, Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, and Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The goal of the Fair's organizers is to raise the level of pedestrian safety awareness in children.

The "Walk This Way" Pedestrian Education Fair is held in cooperation with National Walk to School Day. National Walk to School Day is a program of the National Safe Kids Campaign and is held each year to encourage parents to walk their children to school and speak with them concerning pedestrian safety. Chaired by former U. S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, the National Safe Kids Campaign is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to work to protect kids from their number one killer, unintentional injury, by establishing local community task forces on pedestrian safety.

When asked about his department's participation, Rolen stated, "We're working hard to make sure that school crossing areas are well marked. It's a natural fit for our Department to participate with the Committee in helping to educate kids and parents about pedestrian and bicycle safety."

For more information concerning the "Walk This Way" Pedestrian Education Fair, contact City of Houston Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Lilibeth Andre at 713-837-0003.

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